features are more marked in the west, while among the easternmost population some East Karelian and Russian influence is to be noticed. The difference between the rural and urban areas is not very marked either. It is said that every Finn still has some of the old pioneer spirit in him and is a born forest explorer. But this applies to the city dweller as well as the rural people. On Sunday mornings the roads outside the cities are crowded with people, old and young, on foot or on skis, depending on the season, each headed for a day of hiking in the forests. During the summer the cities seem almost dead. Theaters are closed and the movie houses give only slack performances. Everyone who can tries to leave the city for the months of June, July and August. Many people,

traditional games of wrestling, running, tug-of-war, sack-racing and various ball games. A real interest in sports in general, however, did not arise until the beginning of this century, especially after the spectacular success of Finnish long-distance runners and other athletes in the Olympic Games in Stockholm in 1912. The most popular sports in Finland are the ball games, i.e. soccer, ice-hockey and the national form of baseball, after which come skiing, track and field, gymnastics, swimming, path-finding, wrestling and boxing, cycling and skating. Track and field, in which Finland held second place after the United States in all the Olympic Games until the London event in 1948, are the special favorites of the public, and the large international competitions gather a large

526 number of spectators. Cross-country skiing is
542,
517 a real everyman's sport, popular among old and young alike. In some rural districts skis are still an indispensable means of communication in winter time, and near the cities there are innumerable tracks in the forest for those who ski for pleasure. The school children are given a week's vacation for skiing each winter, and older people are urged to continue their practice.

A large number of Finnish sportsmen have achieved international fame, especially in track and field, skiing, wrestling and skating. They have come from all layers of society, farmers and workers being especially well represented among them.

The favorite sport occasions among the

541 The favorite sport occasions among the
517 farmers are horse races, at which the horses are not ridden but are harnessed before small light carriages. Finnish represent a fairly small and gracefully built variety which is
363 especially good for long distance running. However, for practical use, even in the country horses are being replaced by cars and trucks, and in the cities they are becoming a curiosity, the bicycle is now as indispensable in summer time as skiis are during the winter.

517 In addition to sports, music is a popular form
533 of recreation, in rural areas as well as in cities. Almost every village has a choir, and in summer singers from every part of the country gather for large music festivals.

517 Theater is also very popular among the Finns.
545 Professional theaters exist in all the cities and

517 other densely populated areas, and almost every
545 rural community has an amateur company whose performances sometimes are surprisingly
545 polished and skilled. In 1951-52 there were 33
545 government-subsidized professional theaters, 3 of them performing in Swedish, and 73 workers' amateur companies and 2400 groups of actors giving regular performances under
546 the sponsorship of different societies. During the same season there were 505 motion picture theaters, about one-tenth of them in Helsinki.
517 Handicraft and reading are still considered a good way to spend long winter evenings, not to speak of radio-listening, which during the last few decades has become a very important source of entertainment as well as of information.
527 Special holidays are observed in both rural and urban areas. The most important among

Annex "A," Subparagraph li,

Sociological Background

ARTISTIC AND INTELLECTUAL EXPRESSION

Finnish fine arts have, on the whole, a very strong national flavor. Their basis is in the traditional achievements of the people, while intellectual interest has been especially keen on subjects relating to domestic affairs. At the same time, Western elements are distinguishable throughout the Finnish culture.

Literature. The greatest cultural achievement of the Finnish people is their ancient folklore, which by far outnumbers that found and collected in any other part of the world, and among which poetry holds the central position. The poetic meter goes back to the Balto-Finnic period and may show some Lithuanian influence, but the

Mikkeli	11,303	4,619	1,710	2,087	1,621	866
Kuopio	17,839	9,635	2,980	3,250	3,444	1,548
Vaasa	34,123	21,185	5,977	5,675	5,372	3,329
Oulu	11,625	7,430	2,275	2,605	2,221	1,261
Lappland	3,243	3,508	933	1,611	879	242

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Any information activities originating outside the country are of minor importance. The major foreign embassies--the British, the American and the French--arrange lectures and exhibition and make available literature for representing the culture and achievements of their respective countries, but these activities are almost entirely limited to Helsinki and the educated circles, who have a command of these foreign languages.

1:Indiana U S-4, 5(no date)1955 EOl Finland EOl